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Letter dated 25 April 2017 from the Chair a.i. of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission, I am pleased to provide a report on the results of the eighty-second session of the Council, which was held in Geneva on 24 April 2017. The full text of the conclusions adopted by the Governing Council, together with additional documentation, is attached.[1] I would, however, like to highlight a few of the issues discussed during the session.

Since the departure of Spain as President of the Governing Council at the end of 2016, the position is currently vacant. As there were no nominations for President at the eighty-second session, the United Kingdom agreed to preside over that session and Egypt has kindly agreed to preside over the eighty-third session. It remains the preference of the Governing Council to maintain the established practice of presidents serving two-year terms for the purposes of continuity. However, subsequent to the eighty-third session, the Governing Council will align its presidency with that of the Security Council pending the nomination of a president.

During the opening plenary meeting, delegations from the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait, including a delegation from the Committee of Financial Experts, which is responsible for the oversight of Iraqi oil revenues, addressed the Council.

At the session, the Council considered the issue of the future options for ensuring the timely completion of the Commission's mandate. It recalled that, in its decisions 272 (2014), 273 (2015) and 274 (2016), the Council had emphasized the importance of Iraq fulfilling its obligations and completing the payment of the outstanding compensation in a timely manner and the importance of maintaining the integrity of the Commission and bringing its mandate to a conclusion. The Council further recalled that, in its decision 274 (2016), the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait had been encouraged to collaborate on future options to be shared with the Secretariat for inclusion in its report to the Council.

While Iraq and Kuwait have not yet met to discuss detailed options for consideration by the Governing Council, the Council welcomed confirmation in the statements made by both delegations at the opening plenary that a first meeting would be held in mid-May 2017.

[1] Not included in the present letter.

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The Council will continue to evaluate the options and, in parallel, the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait are strongly encouraged to collaborate on detailed options that would ensure the timely completion of the Commission's mandate and report back to the Secretariat in advance of the Council's next informal Working Group meeting, scheduled to be held in late May 2017.

The Council also directed the Secretariat to follow up with the International Monetary Fund to determine whether its standby agreement with Iraq would have any impact on the resumption of deposits to the United Nations Compensation Fund in 2018 and report back to the Council.

With regard to the request of Iraq for access to the Commission's archives, the Council took note of the statements made by the delegation of Iraq at the opening plenary session and reaffirmed its previous positions regarding the request.

The next session of the Governing Council has been tentatively scheduled for 2 and 3 October 2017.

(*Signed*) Mark **Matthews**
Ambassador
On behalf of the Governing Council